CITIZENS' COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

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STEVEN J. BURTON
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JACKIE PILCHER
Secretary

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Dear Mr. Weisberg,

I have spoken to Rep. Kupferman, who, as you know, introduced a resolution concerning a new investigation last session. I asked him if it would be introduced this session in the same form, which was very weak. He invited our suggestions and it is my opinion that he will listen to them rationally. I would like to hear from you as to your views on this subject.

I'm sure that we agree that adversary procedures in open public hearings is desirable and that Congress is the only means available at this time. However, my problem concerns the exact nature of these 'adversary' procedures. A mock court trial could not be sufficient in that the accused cannot be confronted by his accusers and the legislature cannot constitutionally conduct a trial. Furthermore, the goal of such a 'trial' would seem to be the innocence or guilt of Oswald, rather than

the identity of the assassins. One alternative suggested by a UCLA Professor of Political Science would be to adapt the Administrative Procedures Act of 1946 to this case. Briefly, this Act, used primarily by Executive agencies, would allow any interested and qualified party to present evidence, cross-examine witnesses, etc. This may be the answer, except that the jury would be composed entirely of members of Congress, who would be subjected to political pressure and consideration of the "National interest." I am shortly going to research the actual wording and nature of this act so as to get a clearer picture of what it is.

You have some experience in Senate investigating and are probably one of the most qualified to help us. I would greatly appreciate any specific suggestions you may have.

Also, just as a matter of curiosity, I'd like to hear your views on Jim Garrison. Some of the critics seem to have faith in him, but I'm a skeptic. They may have the "inside dope" while I only know what I read in the papers. I'll look forward to hearing from you soon, for Kaufferman would like to hear from us quickly - Please excuse my handwriting.

Yours,
Steve Barber